

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An agriculturally acceptable composition for ~~acceleration-of-initiating early~~ flowering ~~or budding~~ in a ~~nonleguminous~~ plant comprising an effective amount of at least one lipo-chitooligosaccharide with at least one agriculturally acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently amended) A method for ~~acceleration-of-initiating early~~ flowering, ~~budding~~ or fruiting or for increasing flower numbers or associated yield in ~~at least one a nonleguminous~~ plant comprising: a) providing an effective amount of a lipo-chitooligosaccharide composition; and b) administering the composition to the ~~at least one plant~~.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the providing the composition comprises combining an effective amount of at least one lipo-chitooligosaccharide with at least one agriculturally acceptable carrier.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising harvesting the at least one plant.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the harvesting results in an increased yield.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising harvesting the at least one plant.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the harvesting results in an increased yield.

14. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the lipo-chitooligosaccharide is administered at a concentration between about 10^{-5} M to about 10^{-14} M.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the lipo-chitooligosaccharide is administered at a concentration between about 10^{-6}M to about 10^{-10}M .

16. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is applied to a seed, leaf, stem, or root of the nonleguminous plant.